



#E1-296
R4

Office of Planning and Budget

Sonny Perdue
Governor

Timothy A. Connell
Director

GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

TO: Stephanie Lemmon
CSX Transportation, Inc.
500 Water Street, J200
Jacksonville, FL 32202

AB-55-640

FROM: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse

DATE: 9/5/2003

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

PROJECT: ER: Proposed Abandonment of Approx. 23.25 Miles of Railroad in Ware & Atkins
Counties (Docket No. AB-55, Sub-No. 640X)

STATE ID: GA030812008

CFDA#:

The State level review of the above referenced document has been completed. As a result of the environmental review process, the activity this document was prepared for is not recommended for development. The decision that the proposed project not be considered for development is predicated upon the following rationale:

The applicant is advised to note comments of concern received from Southeast Georgia RDC and DOT Office of Intermodal Programs.

The applicant is advised that the Department of Natural Resources' Historic Preservation Division was included in this review but chose not to comment within the review period. Should they have comments, they will contact you directly.

/bj

Enc.: Southeast Georgia RDC, Sept. 2, 2003

DOT Office of Intermodal Prog, Sept. 5, 2003

cc: STB/SEA



Form SC-4-EIS-4N
January 1995

270 Washington Street, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30334
An Equal Opportunity Employer

GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS

TO: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse
270 Washington Street, SW, Eighth Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

FROM: L. FUTCH / M. JACOBS 
SOUTHEAST GEORGIA RDC

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

PROJECT: ER: Proposed Abandonment of Approx. 23.25 Miles of Railroad in Ware & Atkins Counties (Docket No. AB-55, Sub-No. 640X)

STATE ID: GA030812008

DATE: 8/28/03

- ☐ This notice is considered to be consistent with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for developments of regional impact, environmental impacts, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which this organization is concerned.

This notice is not consistent with:

- ☒ The goals, plans, policies, or fiscal resources with which this organization is concerned. (Line through inappropriate word or words and prepare a statement that explains the rationale for the inconsistency. Additional pages may be used for outlining the inconsistencies).
- ☐ The criteria for developments of regional impact, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations administered by your agency. Negative environmental impacts or provision for protection of the environment should be pointed out. (Additional pages may be used for outlining the inconsistencies).
- ☐ This notice does not impact upon the activities of the organization.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|---------|----------------|------------|---|
| Post-it® Fax Note | 7671 | Date | 9/2/03 | # of Pages | 5 |
| To | B. JACKSON | From | M. JACOBS | | |
| Co./Dept. | CLEARINGHOUSE | Co. | | | |
| Phone # | | Phone # | (404) 285-6097 | | |
| Fax # | 404-650-7901 | Fax # | | | |

Form SC-3
January 1995

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS TO RDC

DATE:

TO: Michael Jacobs, Clearinghouse Contact
Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center
1725 South Georgia Parkway, West
Waycross, Georgia 31503

FROM: Name: Mr. Fred Carpenter
Title: Planning Director
Agency: SEGARDC

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF REVIEW

APPLICANT: C.S.X.

PROJECT: E.R.: Proposed abandonment of Approx. 23.25 miles of
railroad in Ware and Atkinson Counties (Docket # AB-55, Sub-No 640X)

FEDERAL ID #:

STATE ID #: GA030812008

REGIONAL ID #: RC 030814001

REVIEW COMMENTS DUE BY: 8/28/03

REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE CONTACT: Michael Jacobs

Please indicate the appropriate response for your review of this project:

1. ☒ This proposal is considered to be consistent with those local (goals), (policies), (plans), (programs), and (fiscal resources) with which this organization is concerned. (Line through inappropriate words.)
2. ☐ This proposal is recommended for further development provided it is changed to comply with the concerns detailed in the COMMENTS section below.
3. ☒ This proposal is not recommended for further development because of reasons outlined in the COMMENTS section below.

COMMENTS: (Continue on additional pages if necessary)

Are additional pages included?

☒ Yes

Signature of Reviewer

COMMENTS:
Community and Economic Development Division

DATE: August 28, 2003

TO: Fred Carpenter, Planning Director
Southeast Georgia RDC
And
Michael Jacobs, Senior Planner
Southeast Georgia RDC

FROM: Genie Lee
Deputy Executive Director
Planning, Community and Economic Development Divisions

SUBJECT: CSX

PROJECT: E.R: Proposed abandonment of Approx 23.25 miles of railroad in Ware and Atkinson Counties (Docket #AB-55, Sub-No 640X)

COMMENTS: The abandonment of the proposed track will have a negative impact on Atkinson County, specifically, the City of Pearson. Currently the railroad serves two (2) active industries in the Pearson area including Cady Industries (Employment: 325) and Pope Trucking Company (Employment 5). The track has the potential of serving an additional industry, currently closed due to the economy.

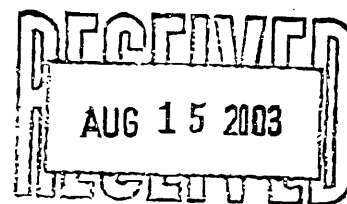
Officials of Cady Industries have stated that, "the Company depends on the railroad track to deliver resin, the bi-product of which all of the company's products are derived. Currently, Cady Industries is operating on a minimal bottom line profit. If the track is abandoned and the Company is forced to "truck" the resin sixty miles round trip, the Pearson, GA operation could result in closure. An existing facility in Memphis, TN has adequate square footage in which to incorporate the Pearson Cady Industries operation."

It is crucial for the City of Pearson AND Atkinson County to keep the rail line running. June 2003 data reflects 8.1% unemployment for Atkinson County. This is higher than the 7.7% for the year 2002 in Atkinson County.

| DESCRIPTION | EMPLOYED 2000 | UNEMPLOYED 2000 | % UNEMPLOYED | EMPLOYED (June) 2003 | UNEMPLOYED (June) 2003 | % UNEMPLOYED |
|-------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Atkinson | 3,144 | 262 | 7.7 | 2,781 | 246 | 8.1 |

An abandonment of the rail line in Pearson, GA will further jeopardize existing and future employment in Atkinson County for years to come. The County will be hard pressed to recruit industry dependent on rail into a community that does not have track readily available. Further, Cady Industries will close its doors putting approximately 325 employees out of work. Pope Industries will lose a portion of its service and approximately 2 additional jobs will be affected by the abandonment. The proposed abandonment of the railroad track will be one more economic development door closed in Southeast Georgia. Once the door is closed, it is virtually impossible to reopen.

NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS TO RDC



DATE:

TO:

Michael Jacobs, Clearinghouse Contact
Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center
1725 South Georgia Parkway, West
Waycross, Georgia 31503

FROM:

Name: Wayne Kilmark
Title: Director
Agency: Ware Co. Planning

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF REVIEW

APPLICANT: C.S.X.

PROJECT: E.R.: Proposed abandonment of Approx. 23.25 miles of
railroad in Ware and Atkinson Counties (Docket # AB-55, Sub-No 640X)

FEDERAL ID #:

STATE ID #: GA030812008

REGIONAL ID #: RC 030814001

REVIEW COMMENTS DUE BY: 8/28/03

REGIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE CONTACT: Michael Jacobs

Please indicate the appropriate response for your review of this project:

1. ☒ This proposal is considered to be consistent with those local (goals), (policies), (plans), (programs), and (fiscal resources) with which this organization is concerned. (Line through inappropriate words.)
2. ☐ This proposal is recommended for further development provided it is changed to comply with the concerns detailed in the COMMENTS section below.
3. ☐ This proposal is not recommended for further development because of reasons outlined in the COMMENTS section below.

COMMENTS: (Continue on additional pages if necessary)

Are additional pages included?

Yes

No

Signature of Reviewer



WARE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

Ware County
Planning Dept.
wareplanning@accessata.net

902 Grove Avenue
Waycross, Georgia 31501
912/287-4379
Fax 912/287-2467

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 21, 2003

To: Michael Jacobs, Senior Planner, Southeast Georgia RDC Regional Clearinghouse Coordinator

From: Wayne Kilmark, Planning Director, Ware County Planning Department

RE: CSX Proposed Abandonment - (23.25 miles of RR in Ware and Atkinson Counties)
Docket Number AB-55, Sub. NO. 640X

In response to the proposed project:

1. This proposal is considered to be consistent with local goals, plans, programs and fiscal resources with which the Waycross-Ware County Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Study are concerned.
2. Railroad transportation is a large part of the Waycross-Ware County and the surrounding regional economy due to its significant investment and employment at CSX Rice Yard in Waycross and the related railroad activities. Ways to keep the "industry" competitive are supported by Waycross-Ware County Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Study policies and projects.
3. Local land use plans do not show existing or future industrial developments along the CSX Railroad proposed abandonment project west of the Waycross-Ware County Industrial Park. Abandonment is consistent with local land use plan.
4. The Waycross-Ware County Transportation Study, completed September 8, 2000 by Georgia Department of Transportation, does not show railroad improvement to the CSX railroad line extending from Waresboro westerly to Atkinson County line. The railroad abandonment plan is not inconsistent with Ware County plans. Eleven (11) rail/road grade crossings will be eliminated in the unincorporated Ware County area, which represents an improvement in overall traffic movement safety in Ware County.
5. The only possible transportation alternative for the abandoned right-of-way would be a bicycle/pedestrian path from the intersection of South Georgia Parkway (US 82) easterly to Waresboro. Currently, GDOT Wiregrass Route (#20) bike path parallels that part of the railroad right-of-way on Highway US 82. However, this improvement is not proposed in the transportation plan and is not shown in the Waycross-Ware County Comprehensive Plan Short-Term Work Program. Local funds are prioritized to create other projects.
6. Removal of the tracks will make CSX Railroad more competitive at the expense of the three industries being removed from railroad service in Atkinson County. Other transportation alternatives (trucking) are needed to serve those industries.
7. Dave Cox of Georgia DOT in Atlanta (Steve Yost's office) has contacted me about the proposal. They are evaluating the need for the State to buy the right-of-way in order to provide railroad service to Atkinson County.

**GEORGIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE MEMORANDUM
EXECUTIVE ORDER 12372 REVIEW PROCESS**

TO: Barbara Jackson
Georgia State Clearinghouse
270 Washington Street, SW, Eighth Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

FROM: MR. HAL WILSON
DOT OFFICE OF INTERMODAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

PROJECT: ER: Proposed Abandonment of Approx. 23.25 Miles of Railroad in Ware & Atkins Counties (Docket No. AB-55, Sub-No. 640X)

STATE ID: GA030812008

DATE: *August 29, 2003*

- ☐ This notice is considered to be consistent with those state or regional goals, policies, plans, fiscal resources, criteria for developments of regional impact, environmental impacts, federal executive orders, acts and/or rules and regulations with which this organization is concerned.

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- ☐ This notice does not impact upon the activities of the organization.

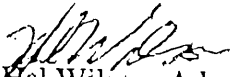
* *See attached comments*

Form SC-3
January 1995

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SEP 05 2003

GEORGIA
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE


FROM: Hal Wilson, Administrator
Office of Intermodal Programs
Georgia Department of Transportation
(404) 651-9215

TO: Ms. Barbara Jackson, Director
Georgia State Clearinghouse

SUBJECT: Executive Order 12372 Review

APPLICANT: CSX Transportation

PROJECT: ER: Proposed Abandonment of Approximately 23.25 miles of Railroad
In Ware and Atkinson Counties (Docket # AB-55, Sub-No. 640X)

STATE ID: GA030812008

GA DOT COMMENTS:

The abandonment of this rail line is not consistent with the goals and plans which this organization is concerned. There are three industries on this rail line that actively receive rail shipments from CSX Transportation - Willacoochee Industrial Fabrics, Pope Trucking, and Cady Industries. Each of these industries will be adversely affected by the abandonment, possibly to the extent of closing and going out of business.

The Georgia Department of Transportation has an active rail program to acquire railroad property and to assist in the rehabilitation of railroad property (including rail property not owned by the Department). Prior to filing for abandonment, CSX Transportation did not actively pursue either of these options as a way of reducing their costs or keeping this line open to shippers and businesses on the line.

There are also a number of other alternatives available to CSX Transportation to keep the line open that do not involve the Department. One option is for the Railroad to lease the line out to a shortline operator. However, to our knowledge, CSX Transportation did not pursue this option either.

It is our determination that a number of industries will be adversely impacted, such as Cady Industries which is the largest employer in Atkinson County (300 - 350 employees). Severing rail service to this industry would negatively impact this employer. Currently, the railroad delivers resin, in bulk, to a rail siding in Pearson where it is offloaded and trucked a short distance (a mile or so) and unloaded into storage silos. The resin is used to make textile products, such as fabrics for erosion control and plastic products, such as plastic bags. The Railroad has offered to accommodate Cady Industries via a siding in Waycross (approximately 30 miles away). However, these accommodations will result in higher shipping and handling costs that the industry has indicated will price them out of this highly competitive market.

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The other two industries, Willacoochee Fabrics and Pope Trucking will also be negatively impacted. Each would be forced to make other shipping arrangements, possibly with another railroad. Both these firms are located in Pearson and will be faced with higher shipping and handling costs in order to continue to serve their present customer base.

Abandoning the rail line between Waresboro and Pearson is not good for the economical development and the well being of this South Georgia area. Prior to allowing this line to be abandoned, additional time needs to be given to address the local interests in the rail line and to make a formal assessment of the line.

The presence of a railroad in a community helps maintain economic competitiveness in the area and throughout the state. The absence of rail service reduces competitiveness and will require the businesses that ship and receive bulk quantities of product by rail find other ways to do so, or force them to relocate to other areas that have rail service. Often, cutting rail service by abandonment will results in a thriving business being forced out of business.

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